

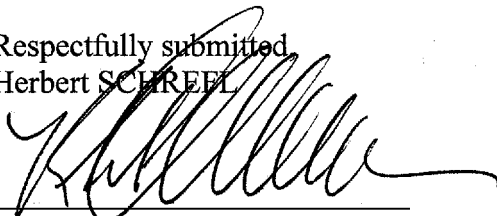
REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement dated February 12, 2009, the Examiner requires election of a single invention chosen from: Group I (i.e., claims 10-28) and Group II (i.e., claim 29). The Examiner asserts that the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same or a corresponding special technical feature. Moreover, the Examiner asserts *a posteriori* that claim 10 is obvious over or anticipated by EP 1 348 806.

Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's assertion that Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept based on the mere allegation that claim 10 is obvious over or anticipated by EP 1 348 806. Moreover, Applicants note that the Examiner has not provided any analysis or findings of fact to support the assertion that claim 10 is obvious over or anticipated by EP 1 348 806. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants elect without traverse the invention defined as Group I, comprising claims 10-28. Moreover, while claim 29 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as being directed to a non-elected invention, Applicants reserve the right to re-file the subject matter of claim 29 in one or more continuing applications.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this preliminary amendment to deposit account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert SCHREFF



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191